A large cargo ship is sailing on the ocean under a bright, hazy sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a strong orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water's surface. The ship is positioned on the left side of the frame, moving towards the right.

USDA Offshore Pest Information System

**Focused Protection of Agriculture
and Natural Resources**

CAPS National Meeting 2003

December 4, 2003

Las Vegas, NV

Bob Balaam, USDA APHIS PPQ



What is OPIS?

(Offshore Pest Information System)

- A structured, risk-focused process
- Designed to:
 - collect,
 - synthesize/analyze,
 - communicate and
 - utilize relevant offshore pest information.

Conceived by stakeholder reviews of APHIS safeguarding system:

- Plant Safeguarding Review (1999)
- Animal Safeguarding Review (2001).

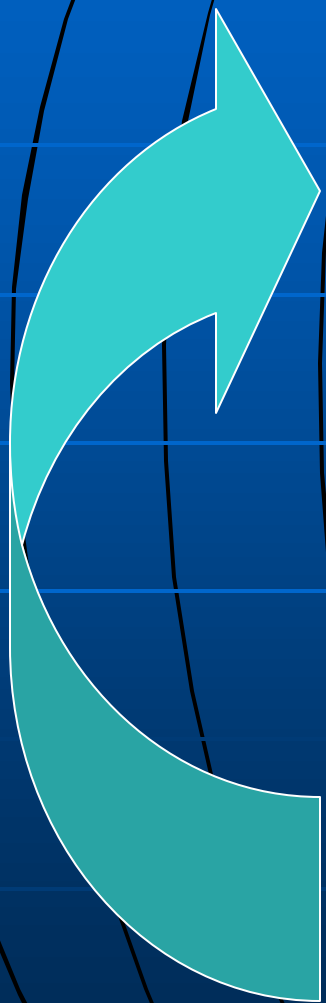
Risk Identification

Offshore Pest Information System

Identify foreign pests of concern to U.S.

Set safeguarding priorities

Base safeguarding decisions on risk

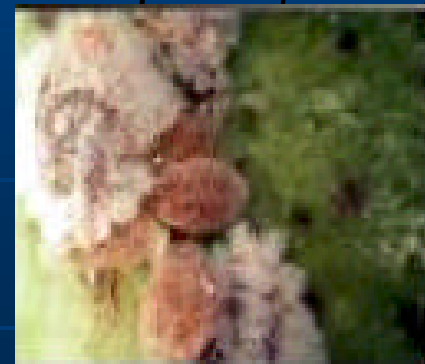


Risk Management Options

Monitoring target pest populations/pathways facilitates risk mitigation

- Deal effectively with status information:

- Port-of-entry inspection
- Domestic survey
- Phytosanitary policy
- Offshore mitigation



Cooperative Effort



- USDA APHIS **Plant Protection and Quarantine** –
 - information management of plant pests.



- USDA APHIS **Veterinary Services** –
 - information management of animal diseases.



- USDA APHIS **International Services** –
 - information collection.
- Foreign and Stateside plant and animal protection interests –
 - information reporting.

Elements and Design

1. **Collection** of Information

- Changes in pest distribution patterns
- Pest outbreaks
- New trade patterns, etc.

2. **Synthesis/evaluation** of information.

3. **Use or communication** of information.

4. **Research or data support** of system information.

OPIIS Target Pest List

- Identifies exotic pests of greatest concern to the U.S.
- Focuses offshore information gathering efforts.
- international monitoring provides focus to APHIS safeguarding activities.
- List is dynamic
 - Latest available science
 - Current exotic pest status
 - Existing or emerging pest pathways into U.S.

OPIS Pest List Development

- Regulated plant pests (plant)
- Select bioterrorism agents (plant and animal)
- Input from professional scientific societies in U.S. (plant)
- CAPS survey priorities developed from 3-tiered system (plant)
- Agricultural and horticultural industry groups (plant)
- APHIS Veterinary Services Division (animal)

OPIS Target Insect Pests (November, 2003)

110 Total Target Pests:

36 insects

18 plant pathogens

17 nematodes

11 weeds

6 mollusks

1 mite

21 animal diseases

CommonName

Spiny blackfly

Exotic economic fruit flies

Asian longhorned beetle

Silver Y moth

Exotic economic fruit flies

Mediterranean fruit fly

Exotic wax scales

False codling moth

Plum fruit moth

Light brown apple moth

Old world bollworm

Black maize beetle

European grape vine moth

Gypsy moth - Asian strain

Metamasius weevils

Euphorbia pit scale

Exotic mealybugs

Cottony citrus scale

Castor thrips

Egyptian cottonworm

Mango aphid

Preferred Name

Aleurocanthus spiniferus

Anastrepha spp. (7)

Anoplophora glabripennis

Autographa gamma

Bactrocera spp. (2)

Ceratitis capitata

Ceroplastes spp. (2)

Cryptophlebia leucotreta

Cydia funebrana

Epiphyas postvittana

Helicoverpa armigera

Heteronychus arator

Lobesia botrana

Lymantria dispar

Metamasius spp.

Planchonia stentae

Planococcus spp. (2)

Pulvinaria polygonata

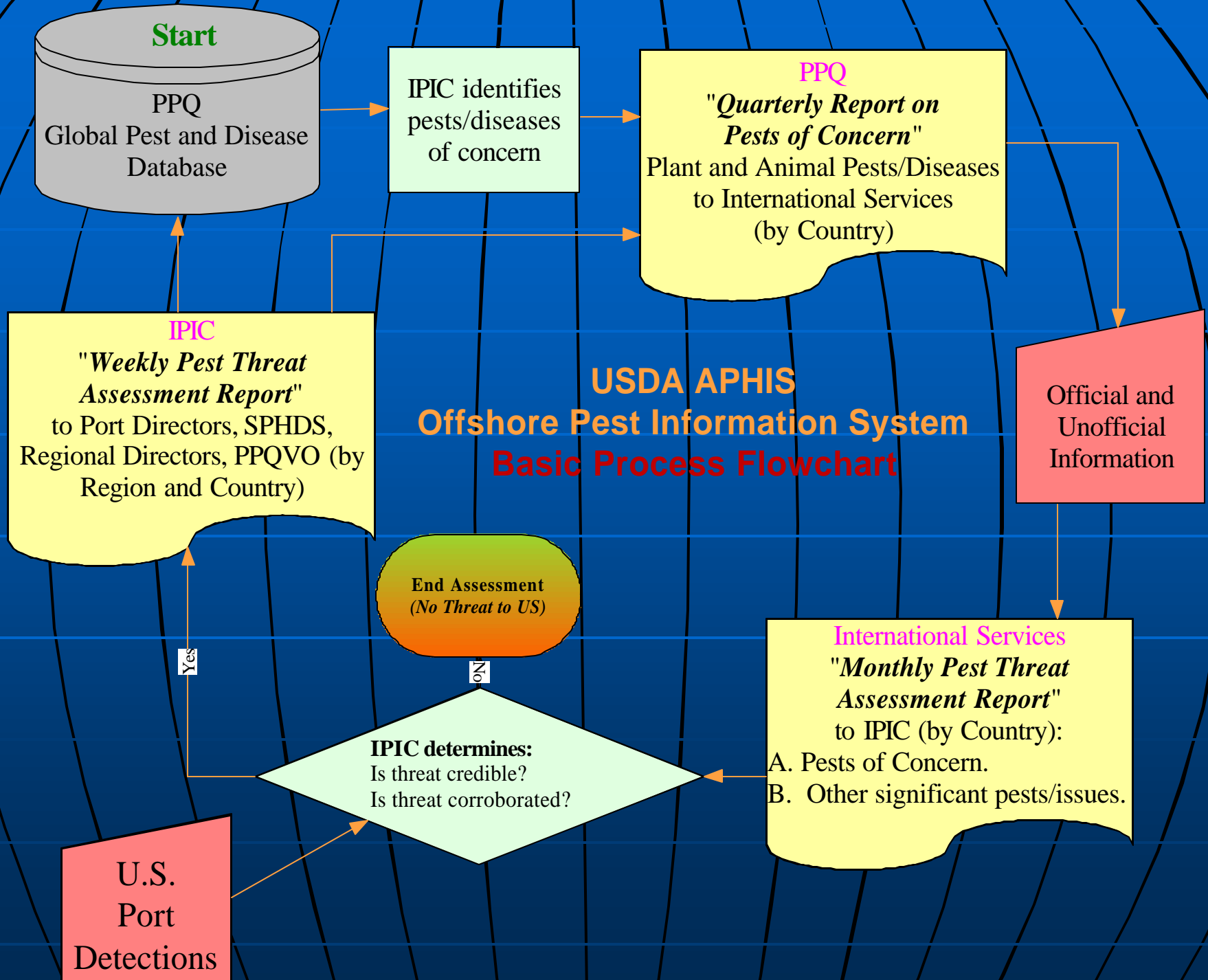
Scirtothrips dorsalis

Spodoptera littoralis

Toxoptera odinae

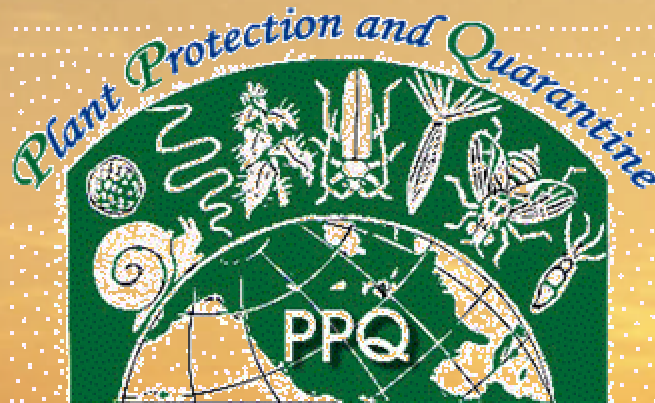
Web-based Information Management

- Designation of target pests.
- Immediate electronic input of collected information.
- Pest alerts and news.
- Links to pest information through GPDD and other sources:
 - Geographic distribution
 - Host commodities/material
 - Taxonomy and identification
 - Other
- Secure (and possibly some non-secure) information.



Pilot Program

- Three countries/regions:
Caribbean  Brazil  South Africa 
- Safeguarding officer in each of three pilot areas; Winter-Spring of 2003-2004.
- If successful, expand to 51 other countries.
- Pilot countries can monitor influx of new pests from outside their country/ region which could adversely impact their trade with U.S.
- Long term goal – U.S. assist with pest mitigation offshore, **before** pest is exported to U.S.



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Offshore Pest Information System